

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 5-29, 42, 43 and 45-51, amend claims 52-54 and add the following new claims 61-86 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claims 1-51. (canceled).

Claim 52. (currently amended) A method of producing a ~~desired~~ user-selected paint composition, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing an apparatus for producing a paint composition;

prompting a user to ~~input into~~ select through the apparatus ~~a selection of whether the paint to be produced will have characteristics of~~ either interior or exterior paint;

prompting a the user to ~~input into~~ select through the apparatus a ~~desired~~ paint sheen;

241 prompting a the user to ~~input into~~ select through the apparatus a ~~desired~~ paint color type; and
prompting the user to place an empty can or bucket into the apparatus;

~~automatically producing the desired paint composition, the step of automatically producing the desired paint composition being performed by the apparatus, the paint composition having the desired sheen and the desired paint composition further being well suited for the desired color type and for either interior or exterior use as desired~~

automatically depositing at least two premixed aqueous compositions into the ~~bucket~~ can or bucket, wherein none of the at least two premixed aqueous compositions is paint prior to being deposited into the ~~bucket~~ can or bucket; and

agitating the ~~bucket~~ can or bucket to mix the at least two premixed aqueous compositions to produce the paint composition having the ~~desired~~ selected sheen, the ~~desired~~ selected color type and being well suited for either interior or exterior use as input by the user.

2
Claim 52. (currently amended) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of prompting a the user to ~~input into~~ select through the apparatus a ~~desired~~ paint quality, wherein the paint composition is produced based upon has the ~~desired~~ selected quality.

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Claim 54. (currently amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of automatically ~~producing the desired paint composition~~ depositing at least two premixed aqueous compositions into the can or bucket comprises :

placing a first aqueous composition in a receiving reservoir, the first aqueous composition selected from a group of premixed aqueous compositions consisting of a pigment composition, a dispersant thickening agent, a high resin content binder, and a low resin content binder; and

— placing a second aqueous composition in the receiving reservoir, the second aqueous composition selected from the group of premixed aqueous compositions, the second aqueous composition being a different one of the group of premixed aqueous compositions than the first aqueous composition

depositing at least a premixed pigment composition into the can or bucket first and then adding to the premixed pigment composition at least one of a premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition, a premixed low resin composition and a premixed high resin composition to produce the aqueous paint composition from the premixed solutions at a location for selling paint.

Claims 55-60. (canceled).

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Claim 61. (new) A method of producing an aqueous paint composition, the method comprising:
premixing a pigment composition as an aqueous solution having a pigment, water, a clay and silica mixture, a viscosity controlling agent and a phosphate-based dispersant;
premixing a dispersant thickening dilutant composition as an aqueous solution having water as its predominant component, a phosphate-based dispersant and a thickener;
premixing a low resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a flattening agent, a phosphate-based dispersant, a thickener and resin in a first amount between approximately 10%-50% by weight;

22 premixing a high resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a phosphate-based dispersant, a thickener and resin in a second amount greater than approximately 80% by weight;

wherein at least one of the premixed compositions further comprises a coalescent;

transferring the premixed aqueous solutions to a location for selling paint; and

mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the dispersant thickening dilutant composition, the low resin composition and the high resin composition at the location for selling paint to produce the aqueous paint composition from the premixed solutions.

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Claim 62. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein the pigment composition comprises approximately 65% or less of titanium dioxide.

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Claim 63. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein the pigment composition comprises between approximately 40 to 50 percent titanium dioxide by weight.

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Claim 64. (new) The method of claim 63, wherein the pigment composition comprises about 25 percent water by weight, about 15 percent by weight of the clay and silica mixture, about 10 percent viscosity controlling agent by weight, and about 5 percent or less by weight of a combination of the dispersant and a thickener.

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Claim 65. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein the dispersant thickening dilutant composition comprises about 93 percent water by weight, about 1 percent or less by weight of a combination of the dispersant and thickener and about 4 to 5 percent coalescent by weight.

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Claim 66. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein the high resin composition comprises about 15 percent water by weight and about 2 percent coalescent by weight.

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Claim 67. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein the low resin composition comprises about 50 percent resin by weight.

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Claim 68. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein the low resin composition comprises about 28 percent water by weight, about 7 percent flattening agent by weight, about 11 percent limestone by weight, and about 3.5 percent calcined clay by weight.

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Claim 69. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein the thickener used for at least one of the thickening dilutant composition, the low resin composition and the high resin composition is a cellulosic thickener.

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Claim 70. (new) A method of producing an aqueous paint composition, the method comprising:

storing, at a location for selling paint, a premixed pigment composition as an aqueous solution having a pigment, water, a clay and silica mixture, a viscosity controlling agent and a phosphate-based dispersant;

storing, at the location for selling paint, a premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition as an aqueous solution having water as its predominant component, a phosphate-based dispersant and a thickener;

storing, at the location for selling paint, a premixed low resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a flattening agent, a phosphate-based dispersant, a thickener and resin in a first amount between approximately 10%-50% by weight;

22
storing, at the location for selling paint, a premixed high resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a phosphate-based dispersant, a thickener and resin in a second amount greater than approximately 80% by weight;

wherein at least one of the premixed composition further comprising a coalescent; and

mixing, at the location for selling paint, a portion of the premixed pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition, the premixed low resin composition and the premixed high resin composition to produce the aqueous paint composition from the premixed solutions.

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Claim 71. (new) The method of claim 70, further comprising storing the stored premixed aqueous solutions for at least one day without agitation or settling of components.

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Claim 72. (new) The method of claim 70, further comprising maintaining the stored premixed aqueous solutions in solution for at least one week without agitation.

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Claim 73. (new) The method of claim 70, wherein the thickener used for at least one of the thickening dilutant composition, the low resin composition and the high resin composition is a cellulosic thickener.

Claim ¹⁷~~74~~. (new) The method of claim ^B~~70~~, wherein the pigment composition comprises between approximately 40 to 50 percent titanium dioxide by weight, about 25 percent water by weight, about 15 percent by weight of the clay and silica mixture, about 10 percent viscosity controlling agent by weight, and about 5 percent or less by weight of a combination of the dispersant and thickener.

del Claim ¹⁸~~75~~. (new) The method of claim ¹³~~70~~, wherein the dispersant thickening dilutant composition comprises about 93 percent water by weight, about 1 percent or less by weight of a combination of the dispersant and thickener and about 4 to 5 percent coalescent by weight.

Claim ¹⁹~~76~~. (new) The method of claim ¹³~~70~~, wherein the high resin composition comprises about 15 percent water by weight and about 2 percent coalescent by weight.

Claim ²⁰~~77~~. (new) The method of claim ¹⁹~~76~~, wherein the low resin composition comprises about 50 percent resin by weight, about 28 percent water by weight, about 7 percent flattening agent by weight, about 11 percent limestone by weight, and about 3.5 percent calcined clay by weight.

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Claim 78. (new) A method of producing an aqueous paint composition comprising:
storing a premixed pigment composition as an aqueous solution having a pigment, water, a dispersant and a thickener;
storing a premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition as an aqueous solution having water as its predominant component, a dispersant and a thickener;
storing a premixed low resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a flattening agent, a dispersant, a thickener and a first amount of resin;
storing a premixed high resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a dispersant, a thickener and a second amount of resin greater than the first amount;
wherein at least one of the premixed compositions further having a coalescent; and
mixing a portion of the premixed pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition, the premixed low resin composition and the premixed high resin composition to produce the aqueous paint composition from the premixed solutions.

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Claim 79. (new) The method of claim 78, further comprising:
selecting a plurality of paint characteristics for the aqueous paint composition prior to mixing;
determining an amount of each premixed solution to combine to produce the aqueous paint; and
combining the determined amounts of each premixed solution in a container prior to mixing.

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Claim 80. (new) The method of claim 79, further comprising:
measuring the determined amount of each premixed aqueous solution prior to mixing and
transferring the determined amount of each premixed aqueous solution prior to mixing.

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Claim 81. (new) The method of claim 80, wherein transferring the determined amount of each premixed aqueous solution comprises separately pumping each premixed composition.

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Claim ~~82~~ (new) The method of claim ~~80~~²³, wherein measuring the determined amount of each premixed composition comprises measuring a weight of the receiving reservoir.

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Claim ~~83~~ (new) The method of claim ~~82~~²⁵, wherein the determined amount of each premixed aqueous solution is transferred to the container during separate time intervals and the determined amount is measured by measuring a weight of the container by recalibrating a weight scale associated with the container each time a different premixed aqueous solution is transferred to the container.

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Claim ~~84~~ (new) The method of claim ~~80~~²³, wherein determining the amount of each premixed solution to combine comprises identifying a predetermined amount of premixed composition needed to produce a paint composition having each of a selected sheen, a selected color type, a selected quality, a selected quantity, and a suitability for at least one of interior and exterior use.

28
Claim 33. (new) A method of producing an aqueous paint composition, the method comprising:
storing a premixed pigment composition as an aqueous solution having a pigment, water, a clay
and silica mixture, a viscosity controlling agent and a phosphate-based dispersant;
storing a premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition as an aqueous solution having
water as its predominant component, a phosphate-based dispersant and a thickener;
28 storing a premixed low resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a flattening
agent, a phosphate-based dispersant, a thickener and resin in a first amount between
approximately 10%-50% by weight;
storing a premixed high resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a phosphate-
based dispersant, a thickener and resin in a second amount greater than approximately
80% by weight; and
mixing the premixed pigment composition with at least one of the premixed dispersant
thickening dilutant composition, the premixed low resin composition and the premixed
high resin composition to produce the aqueous paint composition from the premixed
solutions.

29
Claim 86. (new) A method of producing an aqueous paint composition comprising:
storing a premixed pigment composition as an aqueous solution having a pigment, water, a dispersant and a thickener;
storing at least one of:
a premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition as an aqueous solution having water as its predominant component, a dispersant and a thickener;
a premixed low resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a flattening agent, a dispersant, a thickener and a first amount of resin;
a premixed high resin composition as an aqueous solution having water, a dispersant, a thickener and a second amount of resin greater than the first amount;
wherein at least one of the premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition, the premixed low resin composition and the premixed high resin composition further includes a coalescent;
transferring the stored premixed aqueous solutions to a location for selling paint;
receiving a paint characteristics selection from a customer at the location for selling paint; and
mixing, at the location for selling paint and in order to produce paint having the customer's selected paint characteristics, a portion of the premixed pigment composition with a portion of the at least one of the premixed dispersant thickening dilutant composition, the premixed low resin composition and the premixed high resin composition to produce the aqueous paint composition from the premixed aqueous solutions.
